



Employee News

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

Southeast Regional Planning Council

Dr. Vicki Pappas, of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, prepared this article which reviews the activities of the Southeast Regional Planning Council.

One of the goals of FSSA is to develop regional systems of service for people with developmental disabilities and people with mental illness. The recently re-structured Southeast Regional Planning Council (SE Council) is starting to address what it would take to accomplish this goal. The Council is focusing on developing collaborative and comprehensive services in 18 counties in southeastern Indiana to support families, children and adults.

The SE Council emanated from a group that FSSA originally put together to provide input about the closures and downsizing of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center and Madison State Hospital.

The charge to the SE Council has changed. The task of the SE Council is now to focus on developing a regional service system so that families and children receive the services and supports they need to succeed in the community in a seamless fashion. This involves looking

at what assets exist across the 18-county area and what gaps need to be filled. A regional plan will be developed; one that identifies how to better coordinate services and supports and creatively find solutions to barriers so that children and adults with disabilities receive needed services and supports. The Indiana Institute on Disability and Community will provide technical assistance to the SE Council. The Institute is assisting the SE Council in developing a governance structure and an implementation plan for regionalizing services through coordination and collaboration across the 18 counties. The focus of the SE Council will be on how to provide seamless services and build communities' capacity to serve people with disabilities in community-based settings.

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HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development:

1-888-WORKONE (967-5663)

www.IN.gov/dwd

Available to assist with job search concerns. Web site resources include "Career Planning and Training" and "Job Fair Listings."

Customer Self Service System for Job Seekers:

<https://cs3.dwd.state.in.us/regw/default.asp>

Free service links you to job opportunities across Indiana and neighboring states. Your information is cross-referenced with thousands of job openings. Operated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

America's Job Bank:

www.ajb.dni.us

Nation's largest pool of active job opportunities. Post your resume to employers across the country. Operated by the US Department of Labor and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Ivy Tech State College:

1-888-IVY-LINE (489-5463)

www.ivytec.in.us

Indiana's third largest public higher education system, with 23 campuses statewide.

MEETING INFORMATION

The next meeting of the **Southeast Regional Project Team** will be:

June 26, 2002

10 a.m. - Noon

Columbus City Hall

123 Washington St., Columbus, IN
(812-376-2570)

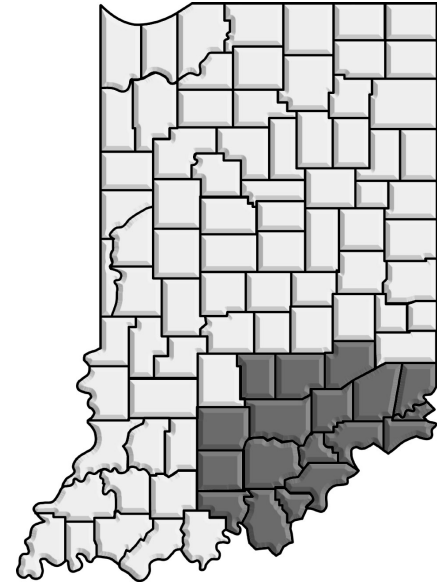
Southeast Regional Planning Council

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Another specific task for the SE Council is to assist the counties in creating family support networks. FSSA has received a federal grant to establish these networks, looking especially at documenting the informal supports families use and also looking at the needs of families from varying ethnic and racial groups. FSSA and the Indiana Institute are developing a process for selecting recipients of county-based grants and to provide the subsequent grantees with assistance as they go about developing their family support networks (this will be the subject of a future article in both family and employee news).

For more information on the SE Council or the family support networks, contact Dr. Vicki Pappas or Dr. Phil Stafford from the Indiana Institute at 812-855-6508, or email at pappas@indiana.edu, or pstafford@indiana.edu.

Below is a map showing the southern Indiana counties covered by the Southeast Regional Planning Council.



Five Firms Submit Proposals for Community-Based Homes in Jennings County

Homes Could Create 150 Local Jobs

Five Indiana firms have submitted proposals to FSSA's Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services to build community-based homes for people with developmental disabilities, most of whom currently reside at the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. The deadline for proposals to build the community-based homes in or near Jennings County was May 11.

The five firms are Dungarvin (Indianapolis), Gibson County Area Rehabilitation Center Inc., Christole Inc. (Nashville), Blue River Services Inc. (Corydon), and Anthony Wayne Service (Fort Wayne).

"These proposals are a positive first step," said Family and Social Services Administration Secretary John Hamilton. "I'm pleased with the strong interest from the business and not-for-profit communities to provide these Muscatatuck residents with a future home that will allow them to gain independence while living and working in their communities."

The proposed homes, along with other community-based services, will ensure that as many residents as possible receive appropriate community-based services upon leaving the center. Muscatatuck is home to 200 residents.

Independent studies of consumers who leave facilities that serve people with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses overwhelmingly confirm that community-based care provides better outcomes and better quality of life. A recent Indiana University study found that more than 70 percent of former Muscatatuck State Development Center residents and their families are "very pleased" or "pleased" with their lives after leaving the facility to live in Hoosier communities.

A Bureau of Developmental Disabilities committee will review the proposals and determine which ones should be granted approval to begin construction. The committee will also decide if more proposals will be needed.

Employee Resource Center

Each month this space will highlight community, government, and non-profit resources available in the community.

■ www.fedworld.gov, a service of the United States Department of Commerce, lists a variety of federal government resources in one location. The site includes information on federal employment, listing job openings and federal pay scales.

■ For another useful online career resource, visit www.quintcareers.com, or “Quintessential Careers.” The site provides links to Internet career search sites. Users can search job-seeker-specific job sites (job boards) organized by categories such as: Job and Career Resources for Career Changers, for Women and Minorities, for Mature and Older Workers, for Temporary Workers, and of course, for recent College Grads. The site gives comprehensive lists of the best internet sites for job banks specific to either your particular industry or geographic location. Also provided are collection of links to the best job resources for the healthcare, medical, pharmaceutical, and social work professions. Also look for excellent (and free) career advice under Career Articles, Career Tutorials, Career Partner Sites, and College Planning.

■ If considering a return to higher education, obtain expert advice from the nation’s College Board at www.collegeboard.com. The College Board has been connecting students to colleges and opportunities for more than 100 years; you may recognize the name, as they created the SAT and the Advanced Placement program. The site offers advice on boosting your study skills, exploring college majors, researching careers, finding a college that fits, exploring colleges and eventually narrowing your list, deciding where to apply and creating a powerful application, college savings plans, finding scholarships and financial aid, applying and paying for loans, etc.

■ College is Possible, a collation of America’s colleges and universities, offers a web site

at www.collegeispossible.org that provides a “one-stop-shop” with links and information on books, websites, and brochures recommended by admissions and financial aid professionals - with special sections on adults returning to school and how to obtain financial aid to pay for school.

If you don’t have access to the Internet, much of the same information is available by calling the U.S. Department of Education’s special toll-free number for college information, 1-800-433-3243, and requesting the College Is Possible brochure. This toll-free number already offers callers a great deal of information on preparing and paying for college.

■ The Indiana Department of Workforce Development’s web site can teach you how to write an effective resume. They review “nine rules for resumes” in an easy-to-follow step-by-step process. The site can be viewed at www.IN.gov/dwd/resume1.shtm.

■ Ivy Tech State College offers over 40 programs of study and over 80 specialties at 23 campuses across Indiana. However, Ivy Tech also teaches courses via the Internet. To learn more about Ivy Tech’s Internet courses visit them on-line at www.ivytec.in.us.

■ The Indiana Career and Post-Secondary Advancement Center’s web site, located at www.learnmoreindiana.org, has many useful resources available to assist in re-evaluating career goals. Users can explore up-to-date job information on specific careers through 480 career profiles. Each career profile contains a snapshot (summary), detailed job description, wages and employment information, working conditions, education and training requirements, licensing requirements, related occupations, military opportunities, and job openings in each field. The site can also help to create a resume and discover what occupations and subject areas the user may find interesting by taking an interest inventory.

Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH employees fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:
www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

Secretary, FSSA
402 W. Washington St.,
Room W461
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088
Attn: MSDC/MSH

or email:
OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-800-903-9822

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

Community-Based Addiction Services

Few people with addictions ever go to a state hospital for treatment. Most receive services in the community where they live. Addiction services are available and accessible in every county and there are usually several publicly funded managed care providers (MCP) to choose from.

In February 2002, the 20-bed substance abuse unit at Madison State Hospital was closed, following the closures of similar substance abuse programs at Evansville State Hospital, Central State Hospital and Logansport State Hospital. These units were closed because they were undistinguishable from privately operated, not-for-profit residential care programs available in the community.

In order to make up for the loss of institutional beds, state-funded beds have been purchased at community-based facilities. The Family and Social

Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA) has expanded the following resources in across Indiana:

- Stepping Stone in Evansville to balance Evansville State Hospital;
- Life Treatment Center in South Bend to balance Logansport State Hospital; and
- The Salvation Army in Indianapolis to balance Central State Hospital.

In the southeast region, the DMHA has contracted with LifeSpring Community Mental Health Center in Jeffersonville to increase their residential addiction treatment facility by ten beds. The facility serves both male and female residents.

For more information on addiction services, visit DMHA's web site at: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/serviceaddict/>

Family and Employee News Now Available On-Line

Both the *Family News* and *Employee News* newsletters will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

MSDC Training Fund Update

As of April 29th, the training fund has disbursed \$215,513.04 on behalf of 316 employees. Employees are taking advantage of the variety of courses being offered at the facility itself including Medical Technology (35 students the majority of whom received a "B" or an "A"), Basic Computer Skills (training on Microsoft Word and basic keyboarding skills), and conversational Spanish (12 students).